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REVIEWS.

THE PAMPAS AND ANDES.*—When one considers that this pedestrian feat was performed by Mr. Bishop when only seventeen years old, unaided by influential friends, having no money, and no knowledge of the language, and for a time sustaining himself by his own labor, one must confess an admiration for the boy's pluck. A perusal of the book shows how one will brave a thousand dangers when impelled by a love of nature. Many interesting facts are given regarding the habits of the natives, the physical features of the country, etc. Some errors which have found their way into our text books are corrected. We find, for instance, that no such place as Uruguay is known in South America. The province, incorrectly called Uruguay on our maps, is properly called Banda Oriental. An interesting account is given of a species of marmot, which burrows in the pampas as our prairie-dog does in the West. "Its habits are similar to those of the proper marmots; in size it exceeds the opossum of North America." They are found all over the pampas, as far south as Patagonia. And strangely enough the burrows are occupied by a small owl known by the name of the Burrowing owl of South America. As an account has already been given in the NATURALIST of the Burrowing owl of the West, we subjoin Mr. Bishop's account of the companion species in South America:

"I first met with this owl on the banks of the River San Juan, in the Banda Oriental, one hundred and twenty miles west of Montevideo, where a few pairs were observed devouring mice and insects during the daytime. From the river, travelling westward thirty miles, I did not meet a single individual, but after crossing the Las Vacas, and coming upon a sandy waste covered with scattered trees and low bushes, I again met with several.

"Upon the pampas of the Argentine Republic they are found in great numbers, from a few miles west of Rosario, on the Parana, latitude 32° 56' south, to the vicinity of San Luis, where the pampas end, and a travesia or saline desert commences.

"On these immense plains of grass it lives in company with the *bizcacha*. The habits of this bird are said to be the same as those of the species that inhabits the holes of the marmots upon the prairies of western North America. But this is not strictly correct, for one writer says of the northern species, 'we have no evidence that the owl and marmot habitually resort to one burrow;' and Say remarks that 'they were either common, though unfriendly, residents of the same habitation, or that our owl was the sole occupant of a burrow acquired by the right of conquest.' In this respect they differ from their South American relatives, who live in perfect harmony with the *bizcacha*, and during the day, while the latter is sleeping, a pair of these birds stand a few inches within the main entrance of the burrow, and at the first strange sound, be it near or distant, they leave their station, and remain outside the hole, or upon the mound which forms the roof of the domicile. When man approaches, both birds mount above him in the air, and keep uttering their alarm note, with irides dilated, until he passes, when they quietly settle down in the grass, or return to their former place.

"While on the pampas, I did not observe these birds taking prey during the daytime, but at sunset the *bizcachas* and owls leave their holes, and search for food, the young of the former playing about the birds as they alighted near them. They do not associate in companies, there being but one pair to each hole, and at night do not stray far from their homes.

* The Pampas and Andes. A Thousand Miles' Walk across South America. By Nathaniel H. Bishop. Lee & Shepard. Boston: 1869. 12mo.

"In describing the North American burrowing owl, a writer says that the species 'suddenly disappears in the early part of August' and the 'species is strictly diurnal.'

"The *Athene canicularia* has not these habits. It does not disappear during any part of the year, and it is both nocturnal and diurnal, for though I did not observe it preying by day on the pampas, I noticed that it fed at all hours of the day and night on the north shore of the Plata, in the Banda Oriental."

ONE THOUSAND OBJECTS FOR THE MICROSCOPE.*—This is an exceedingly useful little work for the beginner in microscopy. It has twelve plates of figures, with explanations in the text, and although the figures are none of the best, they are better than the price of the book would seem to justify.

A GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF INSECTS.†—The Fifth part completes the account of the butterflies, and describes the more typical moths, as far as the family of Geometrids. It contains two plates, a full-page illustration, and sixty woodcuts. The "Guide" will contain ten plates, and be completed in five more parts, the tenth part to contain an Entomological Calendar, a Glossary of Entomological terms, and a copious Index.

THE RECORD OF AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGY, 1869.—A sufficient number of subscriptions have been received to warrant its publication, but as the book will be larger than at first thought, the price will be raised to \$1.00. Original subscribers at 75 cents, will receive their "Record" without extra charge. (The name has been changed from *Annual* to *Record*).

APPLETON'S ILLUSTRATED ALMANAC FOR 1869.‡—A pleasing feature of this annual is twelve cuts, illustrating the game-birds of this country, characteristic of each month.

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

BOTANY.

BOTANICAL NOTES.—In the autumn of 1867 I collected on the shore of Lake Erie, near North East, Pa., a very marked variety of *Scirpus sylvaticus* Linn., var. *atrovirens*?. Instead of spreading rays bearing the heads of spikes, as is usual in this species, the heads of the plants that I found were collected in a dense globular mass, about one inch in diameter. The rays were either very short, or there were none at all. The scales and fruit are similar to those of the common variety. This curious form was not the result of a dwarfing of the plants, for they were of a very robust habit, two to three feet high, with wide leaves and a stout culm. I propose calling it var. *sychnocephala* if not already named. I found them

* One Thousand Objects for the Microscope. By M. C. Cooke. 12mo. London, 1869. 1s.

† A Guide to the Study of Insects, and a Treatise on those Injurious and Beneficial to Crops. For the use of Colleges, Farm Schools and Agriculturists. By A. S. Packard, jun. Parts 1-5. 50 cents each. To be published in ten parts. Published by the author, Salem, Mass.

‡ Appleton's Illustrated Almanac, 1869. For sale by H. A. Brown & Co., 3 School st., Boston.